



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,027	11/26/2003	Franklin C. Wong	AND541/4-010US/64000	7270
21586	7590	07/22/2005	EXAMINER	
VINSON & ELKINS, L.L.P. 1001 FANNIN STREET 2300 FIRST CITY TOWER HOUSTON, TX 77002-6760			JONES, DAMERON LEVEST	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				1618

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/724,027	Applicant(s) WONG ET AL.
Examiner D. L. Jones	Art Unit 1618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-52 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

RESTRICTION INTO GROUPS

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group (1) Claims 1-4 and 6-23, drawn to particles comprising iron and one or more radioactive isotopes, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (2) Claims 1-4 and 6-23, drawn to particles comprising gadolinium and one or more radioactive isotopes, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (3) Claims 1-3 and 5-23, drawn to particles comprising calcium and one or more radioactive isotopes, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (4) Claims 1-3 and 6-23, drawn to particles comprising a metal and one or more radioactive isotopes wherein the metal is not iron, gadolinium, or calcium as in Groups (1) – (3) above, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (5) Claims 24-27, 30-35, and 37-44, drawn to a method of locoregional treatment of abnormal tissue wherein particles comprising iron and one or more radioactive isotopes are utilized, classified in class 424, subclass 9.1.

Group (6) Claims 24-26, 28-35, and 37-44, drawn to a method of locoregional treatment of abnormal tissue wherein particles comprising gadolinium and one or more radioactive isotopes are utilized, classified in class 424, subclass 9.1.

Group (7) Claims 24-26 and 30-44, drawn to a method of locoregional treatment of abnormal tissue wherein particles comprising calcium and one or more radioactive isotopes are utilized, classified in class 424, subclass 9.1.

Group (8) Claims 24-26, 30-35, and 37-44, drawn to a method of locoregional treatment of abnormal tissue wherein particles comprising a metal and one or more

Art Unit: 1618

radioactive isotopes wherein the metal is not iron, gadolinium, or calcium as in Groups (5) – (7) above are utilized, classified in class 424, subclass 9.1.

Group (9) Claims 45-47, drawn to a method of making particles comprising iron and one or more radioactive isotopes as set forth in independent claim 45, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (10) Claims 45-47, drawn to a method of making particles comprising gadolinium and one or more radioactive isotopes as set forth in independent claim 45, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (11) Claims 45-47, drawn to a method of making particles comprising calcium and one or more radioactive isotopes as set forth in independent claim 45, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (12) Claims 45-47, drawn to a method of making particles comprising a metal and one or more radioactive isotopes wherein the metal is not iron, gadolinium, or calcium as in Groups (9) – (11) above, and the process as is set forth in independent claim 45, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (13) Claims 48-51, drawn to a method of making particles comprising iron and one or more radioactive isotopes as set forth in independent claim 48, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (14) Claims 48-51, drawn to a method of making particles comprising gadolinium and one or more radioactive isotopes as set forth in independent claim 48, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (15) Claims 48-51, drawn to a method of making particles comprising calcium and one or more radioactive isotopes as set forth in independent claim 48, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (16) Claims 48-51, drawn to a method of making particles comprising a metal and one or more radioactive isotopes wherein the metal is not iron, gadolinium, or calcium as in Groups (13) – (15) above, and the process as is set forth in independent claim 48, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (17) Claim 52, drawn to a method of acupuncture using particles comprising iron and one or more radioactive, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (18) Claim 52, drawn to a method of acupuncture using particles comprising gadolinium and one or more radioactive, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (19) Claim 52, drawn to a method of acupuncture using particles comprising calcium and one or more radioactive, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

Group (20) Claim 52, drawn to a method of acupuncture using particles comprising a metal and one or more radioactive isotopes wherein the metal is not iron, gadolinium, or calcium as in Groups (13) – (15) above, classified in class 424, subclass 1.11.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:
Inventions {(1) – (4) and (17) – (20), respectively} and {(1) – (4) and (5) – (8), respectively} are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown

Art Unit: 1618

to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the method of acupuncture or method of locoregional treatment of abnormal tissue may be used with either of the products Groups (1) – (4).

Note: It should be noted that while some of the inventions classify in the same subclass, a separate search is required since the sequences present in each of the products is distinct from one another

3. Inventions {(9) – (12) and (1) – (4), respectively} and {(13) – (16) and (1) – (4), respectively} are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the products may be made using the process disclosed in independent claim 45 or 48.

Note: It should be noted that while some of the inventions classify in the same subclass, a separate search is required since the sequences present in each of the products is distinct from one another.

Art Unit: 1618

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. The Examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier.** Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of In re Ochiai, In re

Art Unit: 1618

Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

ELECTION OF SPECIES

6. Claims 1-52 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising various particles having a metal and one or more radioactive isotope. Possible metals include iron, gadolinium, and calcium, among others. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species from within the elected Group above for search purposes, even though this requirement is traversed.

Note: Applicant is respectfully requested to elect a single disclose species from within the elected group for search purposes. If appropriate for the elected group, Applicant is respectfully requested to identify the radioisotope(s), metal, if other than iron, gadolinium, or calcium, particulate(s), microspheres, type of abnormal tissue, method in which the composition is used (i.e., SIRT, local hypothermia, MRI, PET, ultrasonography, gamma scintigraphy, and CT), and the acupuncture responsive condition.

Art Unit: 1618

7. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

8. Due to the complexity of the restriction requirement, a telephone call was not made to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement.

9. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

10. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Art Unit: 1618

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. L. Jones whose telephone number is (571) 272-0617. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 6:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page can be reached on (571) 272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



D. L. Jones
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1618

July 19, 2005